(c) India has been pursuing the import of natural gas from Iran through the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) transnational gas pipeline.

(d) Apart from other issues, the schedule of gas import from the proposed pipeline is also under discussion.

Development of tourism in Rajasthan

†403. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have prepared any outlines for development of different tourist places in Rajasthan;

(b) whether the Central Government have any scheme regarding development of new tourist places alongwith old tourist places, if so, the nature of such scheme; and

(c) the names of districts in Rajasthan for which the proposal of development of different tourist places have been received by the Central Government from the State Government and out of them the names of tourist places for which the Central Government have prepared development schemes and the target fixed to complete those schemes alongwith the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Development of tourist places in the country is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism related projects under the schemes for Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations/Circuits and Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects.

(c) A project 'Floodlighting of monuments in Rajasthan' has been sanctioned for Rs. 800.00 lakh in the current financial year. This project covers 28 monuments spread across different districts such as Jaipur, Karauli, Udaipur, Ajmer, Dausa, Churu, Dholpur, Madhopur, Jaisalmer, Bharatpur, Jhalawar, Bikaner and Kota.

Implementation of projects is the responsibility of the State Government. Ministry of Tourism, Government of India monitors the progress of the projects from time to time.

Promotion of tourism in Punjab

404. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposals/suggestions made by the State Government of Punjab for the promotion of tourism in that State are presently pending with the Central Government for approval/clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof, item-wise; and

(c) by when, they are likely to be approved/cleared?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) No project proposals have been received from the State Government of Punjab in the current Financial Year.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Access of tourists in North-East

405. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to restrictions, tourists are not allowed to access several States in the north-eastern India;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating principal reasons for imposing such restrictions;

(c) whether Government have decided to promote tourism in the North-East by lifting curbs in restricted areas for tourists;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the basis, on which, the curbs are being lifted?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These restrictions are on account of various reasons such as proximity to international borders, law and order situation etc.

(c) to (e) The review of restrictions is a continuous process and is undertaken by the Ministry of Home Affairs on receipt of proposals from the concerned States and in consultation with the security agencies.

Heritage places in Rajasthan

†406. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the action being taken by the Central Government at its own level or in collaboration with the State Government towards the development of tourist and heritage places in Rajasthan; and

(b) the details of amount spent during the last three years in this regard, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) Development and promotion of tourism is undertaken primarily by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for tourism related projects which are identified in consultation and interaction with them under schemes for Product/Infrastructure Development of Destinations/Circuits and Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.